vii. to assist the State level organisations to deal with the development of backward classes by way of providing financial assistance and in obtaining commercial funding by way of refinancing;

viii. to work as an apex institution for coordination and monitoring the work of all Corporations/Boards set up by the State Government/UT Administrations for SC/ST, Backward Classes and Minorities in so far as it relates to the economic development of the backward classes.

ix. to help in furthering the Govt. policies and programmes for the development of the backward classes.

(c) The proposed Corporation shall assist the following target groups of backward classes;

(i) Persons belonging to Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) below the poverty line as defined by the Planning Commission from time to time, may be provided financial assistance on concessional rates.

(ii) Persons belonging to SEBCs who are above the poverty line but satisfy the income/economic criteria to be prescribed by the Govt. of India may be assisted for self-employment schemes and other financially and economically viable schemes.

[*English*]

Clearance to Koel-Karo Hydel Project in Bihar

1815. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared the Koel-Karo Hydel Project of Bihar;

(b) the details of the total areas and forests to be submerged therefrom;

(c) whether any alternative forest areas has been located for afforestation in lieu of the forests to be submerged; and

(d) the details of the land acquired for rehabilitation of the displaced families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total land area required to be submerged for the project is 19792 ha. out of which 657 ha. is forest land.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No land has yet been acquired for rehabilitation of the displaced persons. However, 898 ha. of non-forest land has been earmarked for rehabilitation of the displaced families.

Introduction of Toy Train in Chandigarh

1816. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chandigarh Administration announced recently a plan to introduce a toy train in the leisure valley;

(b) if so, the total amount of cost likely to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the reasons for according priority to this project over the maintenance of parks and roads in the city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) The Administration has in-